



**The Association for
Clinical Biochemistry &
Laboratory Medicine**

Better Science, Better Testing, Better Care

Republic of Ireland region

Annual General Meeting 3rd Feb 2023

Attendance: *Alison Bransfield (AB), *Brendan Byrne (BB), *Karen Heverin (KH), *Jennifer Brady (JB), *Paula O'Shea (POS), *Carl Talbot (CT), Michéal Ryan (MR), Heloise Tarrant (HT), Barbara MacNamara (BMac), Ciara Cuning (CC), Seán Costelloe (SC)

*Committee members

1. **Apologies:** Janice Reeve, Peadar McGing
2. **Approval of 2022 minutes & matters arising:** Minutes for 2022 AGM (Attached – Appendix A) were approved with no matters arising. (Proposed HT, Seconded JB)
3. **Declaration of conflict of interest:** No conflicts of interest were declared by those present.
4. **Chairperson/Council representative's report:**
JB read the chairperson/council representative's report (Attached – Appendix B). JB highlighted the need to promote ACB membership within the region as there are currently 35 members in the region, of which Clinical Biochemists are majority.
(Proposed CT, Seconded MR)
5. **Treasurer's report:** KH presented an update of the bank account and regional account held with the ACB. (Attached - Appendix C). KH reported a balance of €1261.06 in BOI bank account (fees @30th Dec of €15 not reflected in Dec statement. KH presented the ACB RoI regional account (sterling) – opening balance 1/1/22 £1152.31 and closing balance 31.12.22 of £1352.31 (Proposed CT, Seconded JB)
6. **Regional tutor's report:**
KH presented the regional tutor's report on behalf of JR (Attached - Appendix D). (Proposed KH, Seconded JB)
7. **Trainee representative's report:** CT presented the trainee representative's report - see attached (Appendix E).
8. **Election of officers:** The following positions were elected: AB to contact all elected committee members to notify of successful appointment.
 - a. Secretary/Treasurer – Dr Ciara Cuning (Proposed JB, Seconded KH)
 - b. Ordinary Member – Dr Roshaida Abdul Wahab (Proposed JB, Seconded KH)
 - c. Chairperson – Alison Bransfield (Proposed JB, Seconded KH)
9. **AOB**
 - a. KH expressed sincere thanks to Mike Lester & colleagues at ACB head office for all the support received during her term.

Appendix A. 2022 AGM minutes

Republic of Ireland region

Annual General Meeting 5th March 2022

Attendance: *Alison Bransfield (AB), *Brendan Byrne (BB), *Karen Heverin (KH), *Jennifer Brady (JB), *Paula O'Shea (POS), Michéal Ryan (MR), Antonio Reche (AR), Olwyn Lannigan (OL), Peadar McGing (PMcG), Natividad Rico Rios (NRR), Edward J Barrett (EB), Graham Lee (GL), Eileen Byrne (EB), Briedgeen Kerr (BK)

*Committee members

10. Apologies: BMacN.

11. Approval of 2021 minutes & matters arising: Minutes for 2021 AGM (Attached – Appendix A) were approved with no matters arising. (Proposed POS, Seconded KH)

12. Declaration of conflict of interest: No conflicts of interest were declared by those present.

13. Chairperson/Council representative's report:

JB read the chairperson/council representative's report (Attached – Appendix B). (Proposed KH, Seconded PMcG)

14. Treasurer's report: KH presented an update of the bank account and regional account held with the ACB. (Attached - Appendix C). KH reported a balance of €1607 in BOI bank account, decrease of €983 from last year which is made up of €666 euro (50% of profit from 2021 meeting that was transferred to ACBI), €256 euro (book tokens for speakers and abstract award for the meeting) and €60 euro (bank fees). Bank statement presented. Breakdown P&L of 2021 annual meeting shown. Still pending official closing statement for 2021 from ACB head office but confirmed with Ms Cheryl Taylor Operations Manager ACB on 5/3/22 that the balance reported was correct as of Dec 2021. (Proposed JB, Seconded PMcG).
(Proposed JB, Seconded SC)

15. Regional tutor's report:

JB presented the regional tutor's report prepared by Rachel Cullen (RC) (Attached - Appendix D). The FRCPATH tutorial group endeavours to meet approximately once per month and is organised by the ACB/ACBI tutors JR and RC. (Proposed JB, Seconded PMcG)

16. Trainee representative's report: N/A

17. Regional Audit report: Presented by BB (Attached - Appendix E)

18. Update to regional rules: JB confirmed that all committee positions on regional rules do not have to be filled.

19. Election of officers: N/A. JB advised that volunteers for positions of Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer would be sought ahead of next years AGM as both positions must be vacated as per regional rules.

20. AOB

- GL raised the issue surrounding the scheduling of the FiLM/FOCUS training day having to be rescheduled due to a clash with the FRCPATH exam dates which have been released.
- PMcG highlighted the bursary opportunity provided by the ACBI to attend the FOCUS virtual conference in 2021 would still accept submissions by members.

Republic of Ireland Regional Report for 2022

The ACB Republic of Ireland regional committee met 4 times in 2022 in addition to the AGM. Main topics discussed were updates from Council, audit activity and the organisation of today's scientific meeting. The committee comprises myself as chair, Karen Heverin (secretary/treasurer), Carl Talbot (trainee rep), Janice Reeve (regional tutor), Brendan Byrne (Audit/ordinary member), Alison Bransfield (ordinary member), Paula O'Shea (ACBI rep). I would like to thank the committee members who have continued to give their time generously to the regional committee once again last year. My own term and that of the secretary/treasurer come to an end at this AGM and we will elect those positions later in the meeting. Throughout 2022 I attended 3 ACB Council meetings via Teams. Topics under discussion included:

- A Rebranding exercise, in which a name change and associated branding of ACB to be more inclusive of all of laboratory medicine was considered. Surveys were sent to members, but with poor uptake initially, it was felt that further engagement was needed to provide a clear mandate for change. This mandate has now been achieved although the re-branding team are very cognisant of maintaining the link to Clinical Biochemistry and core functions around the science. The plan is to rename to Association for Laboratory Medicine with a launch at the annual conference.
- A regional strategy group has been formed with a representative from each region. Initial work has focussed on trying to achieve harmonisation in regional committee structure and scientific events (in terms of awards, criteria, prizes)
- UKMedlab 22 in London, 23 meeting is in Leeds and will have a session organised by each region to celebrate 70th anniversary.
- A new membership model has been rolled out and all members will have received communications from the ACB office on this (also covered in membership section below)
- A consensus statement was released on DTC testing
- CALIPER database was endorsed
- Continued work with Abbott partnership, and a number of webinars were held throughout the year.
- Significant promotion of EDI across the organisation and activities.
- Laboratory medicine learning academy
- Labtestsonline UK version now run by ACB/RCPATH/IBMS as the US version was bought by a commercial company.
- A green champions group has been formed with a plan to put resources on the website.

ACB ROI Regional Scientific Meeting 2022. The 2022 scientific meeting was held on 4th March 2022 as a virtual joint event. The meeting registration, virtual platform and post meeting CPD

certificates were handled by the ACB office. There were approximately 50 attendees from across the UK and Ireland. Topics included adrenal nodules, gene therapy, gestational trophoblastic disease. A member's paper section received a number of excellent abstracts and the prize was won by Charles van Heyningen. Discussion has been had with ACB Meetings secretary about eligibility criteria for the members paper prize. Overall the meeting was a great success. The majority of respondents 'Strongly agreed' with questions about scientific content all speakers receiving >80% respondents as being high quality.

Membership in the region. There are currently 35 members in the region; 22 Clinical Biochemists, 8 chemical pathologists, 2 industry and 3 medical scientists. The ACB Council agreed at its AGM in 2022 to give ACBI members a reduced rate of membership (150/year). The ACB regional committee recognises that membership of ACB provides us with invaluable networking, training and professional benefits. Nonetheless, we are very grateful to the ACB for recognising that ACB RoI members have 2 professional organisations and that some benefits such as trade union membership are not available to Republic of Ireland region members. The ACBI has highlighted this widely in its newsletter and email communications to members in an effort to encourage a better uptake of this membership offer.

Professional

Establishing a Clinical Biochemists registration board remains a significant goal for clinical biochemists in Ireland and efforts are being made by the ACBI to expedite this process, however as yet there is no commitment on a timeframe to open a registration board. A National review of the strategic direction of laboratory services in the Republic of Ireland commenced in 2022 and clinical biochemists are represented by ACBI at that forum.

Member activities. ACB region members have continued to contribute to national and international organisations, committees and events including the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI), Irish Endocrine Society, Irish National Accreditation Board, Irish External Quality Assurance Scheme, ISIMD, RCPATH and UK NEQAS.

We have members on various clinical and scientific working groups within the ACB, RCPATH, EFLM (Pre-analytical Phase: Dr Seán Costelloe, Register: Michéal Ryan, Distance education and e-learning: Dr Graham Lee, ISO standards Ruth O'Kelly) and IFCC (IFCC Committee on Point of Care testing corresponding member: Ruth O'Kelly).

Publications. This year ACB region members in the region have once again excelled and published in a lengthy list of peer reviewed journals including the Annals of Clinical Biochemistry, CCLM, Diabetes Medicine, Diabetes Res Clin Pract, Front Nutr, Eur J Paediatrics, Practica Lab Med, Allergy Clin Immunol Pract, Neph Dialysis and Transplant, demonstrating the wide range of research interest and expertise within Clinical Biochemistry.

Education

The 2nd intake of the MSc in Clinical and Diagnostic Biochemistry graduated in September 2021. There were 9 graduates. ACB members both within the region and beyond have provided significant lecture and tutorial content and facilitated clinical placements, research projects for this course and were instrumental in its success. 3 of these graduates are currently employed in Irish hospital laboratories in permanent or temporary positions. The remainder have gone to positions outside of the Irish laboratory service (including into academia) due to the failure to provide training posts despite significant lobbying from ACBI for this.

ACB/ACBI Audit Group. Dr Brendan Byrne leads the audit group for the region. A survey was prepared on pre-analytical scenarios and will be distributed in 2023.

Finally, once again despite the continued challenges of the last year and recent significant winter pressures, our members have managed to provide their knowledge and expertise with the many activities outlined above which is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our members.

Appendix C

Treasurers report AGM 2023

Prepared by Karen Heverin, ACB Republic of Ireland Regional Secretary/Treasurer 03/02/2023


		GLASNEVIN		Tel (01) 8375178 Fax (01) 8378302 Branch code 90-06-23 Bank Identifier Code BOFIIIE2D	
ASSOC OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS IR REGION KAREN HEVERIN SENIOR BIOCHEMIST DEPT CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY BEAUMONT HOSPITAL DUBLIN 9		Your account name		ASSOC OF CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTS CURRENT ACCOUNT	
		Account number		13967982	
		IBAN		IE44 BOFI 9006 2313 9679 82	
		Statement date		20 Dec 2022 Number 36	
Your Current Account Statement					
Date	Transaction details	Payments - out	Payments - in	Balance	
13 Dec 2021	BALANCE FORWARD			1,607.03	
31 Dec 2021	NOTIFIED FEES	15.00		1,592.03	
25 Mar 2022	NOTIFIED FEES	15.00		1,577.03	
12 Apr 2022	365 Online Karen He	270.87		1,306.16	
24 Jun 2022	NOTIFIED FEES	15.10		1,291.06	
23 Sep 2022	NOTIFIED FEES	15.00		1,276.06	
This is an eligible deposit under the Deposit Guarantee Scheme. For more information, please see the 'Deposit Guarantee Scheme - Depositor Information Sheet' which is available from your branch or on our website www.bankofireland.com/dgs					

Figure 1BOI Closing balance as of 31st Dec 2022: €1261.06 (fees on 30th Dec @€15)

ROI total as at 13/05/2021		£ 1,152.31
Annual Meeting Profit and Loss Account		
Fee Income	£ 1,175.00	
Sponsorship	£ 908.28	
Total Income	£ 2,083.28	
Admin Support	-£ 750.00	
Speaker Tokens	-£ 220.97	
Bank Charges	-£ 2.54	
Total Expenses	-£ 973.51	
Net Profit	£ 1,109.77	
ACB ROI share	£ 554.89	
ACBI share	£ 554.89	
2022		
ROI Meeting 4th March - 8 non members	£ 200.00	
Balance as at 30/6/2022		£ 1,352.31

Figure 2 ACB Accounts

Appendix D

ACB Republic of Ireland Regional Tutor's report for AGM February 2023

In 2022, the Education, Training and Workforce (ETW) Committee met twice, Wednesday June 8th and Thursday December 1st via MS Teams. I was on maternity leave until July and as such attended only the second committee meeting online. Information pertinent to the training and education of ACB ROI members is considered as follows:

- The ACB ETW Committee is supporting a blended online learning platform "Laboratory Medicine Learning Academy" for which funding is being sought from Health Education England. This platform will serve as a repository for all of the ACBs learning materials and serve as a tool to develop online curriculum content. It is hoped that this will be accessible to all ACB members by Spring 2023.
- Calculations in Laboratory Medicine book by Alan Deacon is going to be republished.
- UKMedLab23 is due to take place in Leeds in June 2023. There will be a cross-discipline management training session for 0.5 days.
- The Management and Leadership training course will run in the summer of 2024.
- The ACB residential training course will take place in Durham from 17th – 19th July 2023.
- From the RCPATH update
 - Module panel Chairs/examiners are attempting to make the exams more relevant, to reflect current curricula but also to reduce the ambiguity in questions.
 - Improvements are being made around communication to ensure that the exam process is a smooth one.
 - Part 2 module 1, OSPE will continue as a desk exercise – no stations, no rotating – 19 questions over 3 hours. Old communication station will be a written question. Exam will be in London at RCPATH or nearby.
 - Difficulties exist with inconsistent approaches by candidates and examiners to projects. The College are aware that some candidates have been waiting a long time for project proposals and dissertations to be approved or marked. Removing elements of the project is slowing going through the General Medical Council (GMC; UK). This was refused initially due to a technicality but it has been accepted for Immunology. If the GMC approve the change it could take up to 2 years for this component to merge out of the exam and as such candidates should still proceed with FRCPATH projects.

The project could potentially be pulled sooner for Clinical Scientists as GMC approval is not required.

In the region:

In the RoI region Clinical Biochemists preparing for FRCPath examinations are in substantive posts with currently no UK equivalent STP/HSST posts. There are eleven career grade Biochemists formally preparing for FRCPath examinations through the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) tutorial group, however only seven of these individuals are ACB members. One Chemical Pathology trainee is an ACB RoI member. The National Programme for Chemical Pathology manages the SpR training with regular online sessions.

Annual assessments of the Clinical Biochemists participating in the ACBI FRCPath tutorial group were held via Zoom in October and December 2022. Assessors were made up of myself (Principal Clinical Biochemist, ACB RoI regional tutor), Ms Rachel Cullen (Principal Clinical Biochemist, ACBI representative) and as extern Dr Jenny Hamilton (Consultant Clinical Scientist at Southern Health and Social Care Trust, Craigavon, Northern Ireland). All participants demonstrated dedication to sitting the exams and appropriate progression for their varied career stage. Their status as members of the ACBI tutorial group was retained.

ACB Republic of Ireland region members availed of the following meetings and educational events, both online and in person, in 2022.

- ACB Republic of Ireland region Scientific Meeting (virtual event, 4th March 2022).
- Topics covered over the past year in the ACBI-supported FRCPath tutorials have included Hypertension, Stone analysis, Atypical fluids analysis, Management and Fertility.
- The 6th EFLM conference on Preanalytical Phase (virtual event, 15th-18th March 2022).
- The Irish Society of Inherited Metabolic Disorders (ISIMD) spring conference on Metabolic disease and the brain (virtual event, 8th April 2022).
- IFCC EuroMedLab 2022, 10th-14th April 2022
- Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) meeting on Sex steroids in aging health and disease.
- The ACBI 44th annual conference took place in Cork 14th and 15th October 2022. Sessions covered were Personalised Medicine, Biochemistry at the Milestones, International Developments in Lab Medicine and Pharmacology for Biochemists. A training day on calculations took place the day prior to the conference. Many members presented posters and provided talks.
- A Roche User group meeting was held in Dublin in October and was well attended by members.
- The annual IEQAS participant's conference took place 6th October 2022.
- The MSc in Clinical Chemistry run out of University College Dublin is supported by with much of the lecture content delivered by Clinical Biochemists in Ireland. Many and varied topics have been covered including CSF Xanthochromia, UKNEQAS Interpretative comments, Quality, Troponin methodology *etc.*
- UKNEQAS webinars (EQA surgery, Birmingham Steroids, MS and Endocrinology Past present and future).
- IFCC webinars (Cardiac Markers, Traceability of measurements, Quality and Laboratory accreditation, Three topics of interest for Clinical Laboratory Professionals in Ibero-America).

Prepared by Dr Janice Reeve, ACB Republic of Ireland Regional Tutor 03/02/2023.

Appendix E

Regional Trainee Representative Report

[Carl Talbot][3rd Feb 2023]

Trainee report Jan 2022-Dec 2022

The ACBI Trainee Group currently consists of 11 Clinical Biochemists, Alison Bransfield (AB), Lucille Kavanagh-Wright (LKW), Heloise Tarrant (HT), Karen Heverin (KH), Micheal Ryan (MR), Kelly McCarthy (KC), Carl Talbot (CT), Ciara Cuning (CC), Clodagh Kivlehan (CK), Ruth Cullen (RC) and Briedgeen Kerr (BK)

7 Trainees have completed Part 1 examinations with one also completed path 2 module1 and 2 exams.

Individual trainees participated in a wide range of training, educational and scientific activities during the training period of Jan 2022 – Jan 2023

Training Activities

Tutorial format changed to trainee led tutorials. Tutorials to be organised and hosted by trainees in turn with trainees prepping questions in advance (to include part 1 and 2 style questions)

Training activities included FRCPATH Tutorials hosted and organised by the ACBI, namely;

- Hypertension & Renal Stones hosted by Dr. Brendan Byrne and Dr. Lucille Kavanagh-Wright.
- Fluids & Laboratory Management Hosted by Dr. Peadar McGing.
- Electrophoresis (All Topics) hosted by Orla Maguire
- ACBI assessments
- ACBI Training day - Calculation workshop
- GI tract – trainee led

Trainees also attended virtually training sessions organised by ACB in the UK; namely the ACB Training day and the ACB UKMEDLAB 2022 conference and a range of ACB regional meeting such as

- EQA surgery UKNEQAS
- Birmingham Steroids, MS and Endocrinology Past present and future

Educational Activities

Participation in the delivery of lectures and workshops for MSc. in Clinical and Diagnostic Biochemistry at University College Dublin (UCD). Examples of such included lectures on CSF Xanthochromia, Interpretative comments, Quality workshop, Troponin methodology

Scientific Activities

Trainees were both delegates and active participants at the ACBI annual Conference (November 2022). Members of the trainee group were on the Organising committee (AB/KC), also presented/co-presented the following scientific posters:

Other conference where trainees presented scientific posters included 2 posters and 1 oral abstract at EFLM preanalytical conference and one Poster presentation at Euromedlab, Munich

In addition to the ACBI conference, Trainees were involved in the organisation or presented at the ACB ROI conference, ACBI evening meeting (Macro-B12) and ISIMD conferences.

- **Other Webinars/Conferences/educational activities**

- IFCC cardiac marker webinar
- ISIMD spring conference – Metabolic disease and the brain
- IFCC webinar - Traceability of measurements, quality and laboratory accreditation.
Three topics of interest for clinical laboratory professionals in Ibero-America
- AACB Chem Path training course
- RCSI Sex steroids in aging health and disease meeting
- Roche User group meeting
- Journal club attendance - Data analytics, Endo- thyroid nodules, Endo- vit D
- EFLM webinar – Androgen excess or deficiency
- Weekly SIMD weekly Biochemical genetics seminars
- Radiometer POCT conference
- Weekly MDT tutorials
- local grand rounds
- Gifford on line clinical cases

The trainee group would like to acknowledge and thank the ACBI Training Committee, and to all those who have taken the time to give tutorials and support to the trainees.